United Nations A/64/714

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 70 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Statement in Solidarity with Haiti, which was adopted at the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70 (a).

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative

10-28563 (E) 010410

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement in solidarity with Haiti

[Original: English and Spanish]

We the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the Unity Summit, express our deepest sympathy to the people and Government of Haiti and deeply regret the hundreds of thousands of casualties, the millions of victims and unquantifiable damage caused to the Haitian nation by the earthquake of 12 January.

Based on this solidarity duty with the first independent nation in Latin America and the Caribbean, we ratify our commitment to contribute, to the utmost of our capacity, in the joint effort undertaken by our region and by the international community in favour of the Haitian people, in accordance with the priorities and most fundamental needs to be defined by the Government of that sister nation and with full respect to its authority and sovereignty and the principle of non-intervention in domestic affairs.

As a priority, we will support the strengthening of the Haitian State institutions, with the purpose of promoting the efficiency of the cooperation, social and economic sustainable development, the intensification of democracy and the preservation of peace and security.

We express our determination to continue cooperative efforts to overcome the grave emergency caused by the recent natural disaster and the provision of humanitarian assistance, which has benefited from the invaluable contribution of our Governments and people, and with the support of the civil society and non-governmental organizations of our countries, as well as the international organizations.

At the same time, we express the conviction that it is essential to strengthen the regional coordination, with the Government of Haiti, and international organizations and entities, to provide effective support to that country in the reconstruction efforts through the division of work and demand the arrival of the promised resources that will make possible its sustainable development in the medium and long term.

We highlight the coordinating role of the United Nations in the humanitarian assistance and reconstruction of Haiti in its early response stages, recovery, rehabilitation, and transition towards the sustainable development on its three aspects: social, economic and environmental. Said coordination has as a fundamental purpose to take advantage of the assistance and cooperation actions, as well as avoiding the fragmentation of these efforts, and that must be based on the priorities and necessities identified by the Government of Haiti.

We recognize the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), whose civilian, military and police personnel are providing invaluable field support to meet urgent needs, and we render tribute to its members, especially those who died on the line of duty.

We call on the States that have not already done so, to implement special migratory regularization processes in favour of Haitian citizens.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico
23 February 2010

United Nations A/64/715

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2010
Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 69
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the special communiqué on cooperation on migration issues, which was adopted at the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative

10-28581 (E) 010410

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Special communiqué on cooperation on migration issues

[Original: English and Spanish]

We, the Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean:

Highlight the solid historical and cultural ties that have always characterized the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, along with the consensus that exists among their Governments regarding the importance of the migration issue to the region's countries and the positive contribution made by migratory flows in both directions.

Demand the effective enjoyment and protection of the human rights in the countries of origin, transit and destination of all migrants and their families, particularly children and women, regardless of their migration status, as established by international law.

We also note that the poverty created by, among other reasons, an inequitable international order with vast economic, social and developmental differences, is one of the root causes of migration. We therefore assume the responsibility and commitment to create in our countries conditions that encourage our populations to remain there, so that migration can be an option and not a necessity, and discourage brain drain.

We acknowledge the importance of the economic, social and cultural contributions made by migrants to the development of their home and host societies and of their communities. Consequently, we understand that the migration issue must be addressed in accordance with the principle of joint but differentiated responsibility among countries of origin and destination countries, giving consideration to its structural causes and their effects.

We thus agree on the need to strengthen migratory policies and practices that will ensure the respect of the fundamental rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status, as an informed and safe management of migratory flows. Those migratory policies and practices will also contribute, among other issues, to facilitate remittances and the dignified voluntary return of migrants.

We also recognize the need to promote mechanisms to facilitate the integration and the reunification of the migrants' families in accordance with national legislation and to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

At the same time, we highlight the promotion of the active involvement of migrants established outside the region in the development of their communities of origin, through the creation of migrant community networks and associations, in contributing to innovation, technology, social development and participation.

Bearing in mind the need to step up the exchange of best practices between countries of origin and destination of migrants, we call for an even more strengthened dialogue, reciprocal understanding, the exchange of best practices, cooperation, knowledge transfer, identification of common challenges, and promotion of voluntary return programmes. Likewise, we call to promote a coordinated regional position in all the multilateral forums in order to achieve substantial and tangible results in all the matters that the migration phenomenon entails.

We recognize the need to implement gender-sensitive national and regional migration policies, in the light of the situation of particular vulnerability faced by women and girl migrants.

We underscore the need to promote coordinated actions by the Latin American and Caribbean Governments, in order to address, combat and punish, with all the force of the law, and based on the international conventions on the matter and national legislations, the illicit smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human lives in countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants. Also, to strengthen the consular networks of our countries to improve and expand the consular attention, protection and assistance of our migrants.

We emphasize particular attention for migrant communities that reside beyond the region, seeking to establish working agendas with all destination countries of our migrants.

We therefore underscore our bi-regional dialogue with the European Union, we express our support for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean-European Union Migration Dialogue established in the framework of the Declaration of the Fifth Summit, held in Lima in 2008.

We are also resolved to progress with the development of regional cooperation programmes on migration and to develop efforts to coordinate positions towards the Fourth Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Mexico in 2010.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico
23 February 2010

United Nations A/64/716

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 53 (d)
Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations

Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration of Support for the Yasuni-Itt Initiative, which was adopted at the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 53 (d).

(Signed) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative

10-28606 (E) 010410

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Declaration of Support for the Yasuní-Itt Initiative

[Original: English and Spanish]

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered together at the Unity Summit, applauded the Yasuní-Itt Initiative promoted by Ecuador, to build an efficient voluntary measure to address the issue of climate change and to ensure the conservation of one of the most biodiverse locations in the world.

As a result of this initiative, Ecuador will cease to mine 846 million barrels of petroleum present in the subsoil of the Yasuní National Park, which will prevent 407 million metric tons of carbon emissions from being released into the atmosphere. This would have resulted from the burning of these fossil fuels.

This initiative will contribute to a sense of respect for the indigenous cultures of the peoples in voluntary isolation in the Yasuní Park, as well as to social development, nature conservation and encourage the use of renewable energy sources.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico
23 February 2010

United Nations A/64/717

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 23
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration on the Issue of the Malvinas Islands and the special communiqué on exploration for fossil fuels on the Continental Shelf, which were adopted at the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 23.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative

10-28832 (E) 010410

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Declaration on the Issue of the Malvinas Islands

[Original: English and Spanish]

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the Unity Summit, reaffirm their support to the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the dispute over sovereignty with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland relating to the "Question of the Malvinas Islands".

They recall the regional interest in that the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a just, peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and declarations of the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

They further state that, in respect of the Treaty of Lisbon modifying the Treaty of the European Union and the Constitutive Treaty of the European Community, the inclusion of the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands in the regime of the Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories is incompatible with the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic and with the existence of a sovereignty dispute over the said archipelagos.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico
23 February 2010

Special communiqué on exploration for fossil fuels on the Continental Shelf

At the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean, the President of the Argentine Republic, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, informed the Heads of State of Latin America and the Caribbean about persistent unilateral British actions in prospecting for and extracting fossil fuels in the area of the Argentine continental shelf.

The President of Argentina noted that a semi-submersible oil rig had arrived to begin exploration work in an area of the Argentine continental shelf, located some 100 nautical miles north of the Malvinas Islands. In connection with this, on 2 February 2010, the Argentine Government sent the United Kingdom a note of protest, rejecting its decision to authorize those activities. That note of protest has been distributed as an official document of both the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

In this regard, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean recalled General Assembly resolution 31/49 which "calls upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended" by the General Assembly.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico
23 February 2010

United Nations A/64/718

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 20
The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Special Declaration on Guatemala, which was adopted at the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 20.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative

10-28691 (E) 310310

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Special Declaration on Guatemala

[Original: English and Spanish]

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean thanked the President of Guatemala, Alvaro Colom, for the information he provided them at the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on the results of the investigations of the Rosenberg affair conducted by the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), under the leadership of Dr. Carlos Castresana and encouraged him to move forward. The investigation absolved President Colom, his wife, and his private secretary of the groundless and irresponsible charges that were made against them and that caused anxiety and instability in the country.

In view of that, the Heads of State and Government at the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed their satisfaction for the transparency of CICIG's investigation.

President Colom expressed his warmest appreciation to the Heads of State and Government for their support and solidarity they have offered at those difficult times. In turn, they welcomed the announcement made by the President of Guatemala that he would call for a national dialogue, with the participation of all sectors of society, to allow the governance of the country and the adoption of an amended tax code that would benefit the most vulnerable segments of the Guatemalan population.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico

23 February 2010

United Nations A/64/719

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 19
Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration on the Need to End the United States Economic, Trade and Financial Embargo against Cuba, which was adopted at the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19.

(Signed) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative

10-28685 (E) 010410

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Declaration on the Need to End the United States Economic, Trade and Financial Embargo against Cuba

[Original: English and Spanish]

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the Unity Summit, expressed their most vigorous rejection of the coercive and unilateral economic sanctions applied for political reasons against sovereign states, and which affect the well-being of their peoples and are conceived to impede them in exercising their rights to decide, on their own terms, their own political, economic and social systems.

In this regard, we reiterate our most vigorous rejection of the legal application of laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Law and appeal to the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the application of this law.

We therefore urge the Government of the United States of America, in compliance with the successive agreements approved by the General Assembly, to put an end to the economic, trade and financial embargo against Cuba, which goes against international law, is severely and unjustifiably damaging to the well-being of the Cuban people and affects peace and coexistence among the nations of the Americas.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico
23 February 2010

United Nations A/64/720

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda items 20, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57, 58 (b), 59, 60, 61, 62, 69, 83, 96, 104, 105, 106, 114 and 123

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Culture of peace

Information and communication technologies for development

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Towards global partnerships

Agriculture development and food security

Social development

Advancement of women

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

General and complete disarmament

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Global health and foreign policy

10-28632 (E) 310310

Please recycle

Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit Declaration, which was adopted during the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex I). I am also pleased to transmit to you the Cancún Declaration, adopted on 23 February 2010 (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter as well as these declarations circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57, 58 (b), 59, 60, 61, 62, 69, 83, 96, 104, 105, 106, 114 and 123.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Annex I to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English and Spanish]

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN UNITY SUMMIT DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, gathered at the Unity Summit, constituted by the 21st Summit of the Rio Group and the 2nd CALC in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico on February 22 and 23, 2010,

Reaffirming our conviction to decidedly advance toward an organization that encompasses all Latin-American and Caribbean States;

Reaffirming the need to undertake efforts, with our peoples, that will enable us to move forward in the unity and the political, economic, social and cultural integration, foster social welfare and quality of life, economic growth and promote our independent and sustainable development on the basis of democracy, equality and the widest social justice;

Reasserting our decision to promote the harmonization and convergence of actions among these mechanisms through the exchange of experiences and the identification of areas of cooperation, based on the principles of solidarity, flexibility, pluralism, diversity, complementarity of actions and voluntary participation in the initiatives envisaged.

Renewing our commitment to integrated regional development which should be inclusive and equitable, taking into account the importance of ensuring favorable treatment for the small vulnerable economies and land-locked and island developing states.

Reiterating also our commitment to the building of a more just, equitable and harmonious international order based on respect for International Law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. We reaffirm our commitment to the defense of sovereignty and the right of any State to establish its own political system, free from threats, aggression and unilateral coercive measures and in an environment of peace, stability, justice, democracy and respect for human rights.

Stressing the necessity of having our own regional space that consolidates and projects the Latin American and Caribbean identity based on shared principles and values; and on the ideals of unity and democracy of our peoples;

With the conviction that political coordination based on mutual trust among our governments is essential to foster our own solutions and to promote peace in the region; to contribute to the defense, strengthening and consolidation of our own democratic institutions; to promote and broaden political

dialogue with other States and groups of States; and to strengthen multilateralism and democracy in international decision-making;

Recognizing the valuable contribution of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination – Rio Group – to the central themes of the regional and global agendas in favor of the highest aspirations of our countries;

Underscoring at the same time the historic significance for our region of the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC) and the importance of its agenda to advance the regional integration and establish effective commitments to joint actions to promote sustainable development of the States in the region;

Endorsing our commitment to the preservation of democratic values in the region and with the full and unrestricted functioning of institutions and the rule of law and with full respect and observance of human rights, all of which constitute essential objectives promoted by our countries; Convinced that democracy is one of our region's most valued conquests, that the peaceful power transmission through institutional means and with strict compliance to the constitutional rules in each of our States is the product of a continuous and irreversible process on which the region admits no interruptions or stepping backward.

Sharing the conviction that it is necessary to establish effective commitments for joint action with the aim of strengthening regional integration and to promote the sustainable development in harmony with nature and social welfare, of all our States;

Determined to promote the synergy, harmonization, and complementarity of cooperation activities between the different integration mechanisms,

We have decided:

1. To constitute the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States as our own regional space encompassing all Latin American and Caribbean States,

2. To consolidate and globally project, through the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Latin American and Caribbean identity based, among others, on the following principles and common values:

    - the respect for international law
    - the sovereign equality of States
    - the non-use nor the threat of use of force
    - democracy
    - the respect for human rights
    - respect of the environment, taking into consideration the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development

- international cooperation for sustainable development
- the unity and integration of Latin-American and Caribbean countries
- an ongoing dialogue that promotes peace and regional security

3. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States will work based on:

- solidarity
- social inclusion
- equity and equal opportunities
- complementarity
- flexibility
- voluntary participation
- plurality
- diversity

4. That the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States embraces the legacy of the Rio Group and the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC).

5. That the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States should, as a priority:

- Encourage, the regional integration, aiming towards the promotion of our sustainable development.
- Promote political coordination, the enhancement of the Latin-American and Caribbean agenda in global forums and a better positioning of Latin America and the Caribbean in the face of relevant international developments.
- Encourage the dialogue processes with other States, groups of countries and regional organizations, in order to strengthen the presence of the region in the international arena.
- Promote the communication, cooperation, articulation, coordination, complementarity and synergy among the sub-regional organisms and institutions.
- Increase our ability to develop specific programs on dialogue and international cooperation both within the region and with other States and international actors.
- Strengthen cooperation on the issues and taking into account both the CALC Declaration of Salvador-Bahia mandate, and the Montego Bay Action Plan and on other documents that could be incorporated, based on the broadest integration efforts.
- Promote the implementation our own mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution.

6. As long as the process for constituting the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is not complete, maintain a unified forum, in which all the Latin American and Caribbean States

take part, that preserves the Rio Group and CALC with their respective working methods, practices, and procedures, in order to ensure that their mandates are fulfilled, as well as the capacity for political coordination that will enable them to issue statements on or act in the event of international developments.

The meetings of the Rio Group and CALC will be held through this unified forum, according to the calendar of meetings of both mechanisms. Nevertheless, the summits of 2011 in Venezuela and of 2012 in Chile will be held.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico, 23 February 2010

Annex II to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English and Spanish]

DECLARATION OF CANCÚN

1. The Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the Unity Summit, consisting of the 21st Summit of the Rio Group and the 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC), in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 23 February 2010;

2. *Determined* to build a common space for the purpose of deepening the political, economic, social and cultural integration of our region and to establish effective commitments for joint action to promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean in a framework of unity, democracy, full respect for human rights, solidarity, cooperation, complementarity and political coordination;

3. *Convinced* that the Latin American and Caribbean region should continue to strengthen its presence in the *fora* of which it is part and state its perspective on major issues and events on the global agenda;

4. *Highlighting* the importance of promoting communication, cooperation, harmonization, synergy, convergence of actions and exchange of experiences among the different sub-regional integration processes and mechanisms;

5. *Endorsing* our commitment to effective multilateralism and to the United Nations as the forum par excellence for the promotion of peace, human rights, international cooperation for development and for building a fair and equitable world economic system; and

6. *Endorsing* also the principles of solidarity, flexibility, gradualism, pluralism, diversity, complementarity of actions and voluntary participation embodied in the Summit on Integration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Salvador, Bahia, as a formula to address the challenges facing our region and to achieve our goals,

Have decided to:

1. *Enhance* the political dialogue among our States and translate, through political coordination, our principles and values into consensus. The region needs an entity of strengthened political coordination that will support its international position and will result in swift and effective action to promote Latin American and Caribbean interests in relation to the new issues on the international agenda.

2. *Enhance*, in this regard, the coordination of regional positions ahead of meetings and conferences of global reach, and adopt a more dynamic profile for political consultation and dialogue with other regions and countries in the belief that such dialogue contributes to project the region and increase its influence in the international, global and interdependent arena.

3. *Reaffirm* that the preservation of democracy and democratic values, the validity of institutions and the rule of law, and the commitment to the full respect and observance of all human rights for everyone are all essential objectives of our countries.

4. *Promote* an integrated agenda, based on the heritage of the Rio Group and the CALC agreements, as well as those of the existing cooperation, coordination and integration mechanisms and bodies, which together represent a valuable regional asset that is sustained on principles and shared values, in order to give continuity to our mandates through a work program that promotes effective linkages, cooperation, equitable economic growth, social justice, and in harmony with nature for sustainable development and the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole.

5. *Agree*, to develop a work program around the following priority areas and lines of action:

Cooperation between the regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms

6. *Intensify* the dialogue, coordination, interaction, consensus, synergies and convergence of actions among the regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to deepen integration and accelerate regional development through the formulation of common and complementary projects.

7. *Call upon* the regional and sub-regional organizations and mechanisms to promote specific schemes that favor the exchange of experiences and the identification of areas of cooperation, as well as the appropriate synergies and convergence of actions among the different sub-regional integration processes, in order to take specific steps that enable us to advance more deeply into the various dimensions of integration.

Economic matters

International financial crisis

8. *We have positive expectations* derived from some indications of recovery in the global economy. Nevertheless, we recognize the continued severe impact of the crisis on some countries in the region. In particular we note the special challenges faced by middle-income countries, including those that are small, vulnerable and highly indebted and the need for greater attention by the international community in assisting their recovery.

9. In view of the impact of the last international financial crisis on the region, *promote* a closer cooperation regarding financial and regulatory policies. We propose, in this regard, a broad

dialogue, consulting as appropriate at the level of regional experts or Ministers of Finance or their equivalent, so as to build a new international financial architecture that guarantees the democratization and transparency of international financial management, and the strengthening of the regulatory mechanisms to establish effective governance, crisis minimization and timely responses to future crises.

10. *Stress* that the reform of international financial institutions should consider the appropriateness of international financial instruments to the financing needs of developing countries, including the availability of preventive instruments.

11. *Support* a substantial reform of the financial regulations, according to each country's internal legislation, in order to achieve a global regulatory system that is more representative, equitable and sustainable in the long term.

12. *Request* that the Ministers of Finance or their equivalent design a strategy for the progressive development of a regional and sub-regional financial architecture that would include the consideration of the following proposals:

a) a multilateral and voluntary payment system based on existing experiences in the region, including mechanisms for payment in national currencies.
b) evaluation of existing experiences in the field of common currencies.
c) strengthening or creation of regional mechanisms for the stabilization of the balance of payments.
d) integration of financial markets at the regional and sub-regional levels, with adequate and transparent supervisory and regulatory mechanisms.
e) strengthening and creation of institutions or financial funds to support development and integration projects in the region, including the coordination of such funds and institutions.
f) cooperation between national and regional development banks.

13. *Hold* a meeting on the Reciprocal Payments and Credits Agreement (RCA) of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) to be convened by that association, to which representatives of other reciprocal payment and credit systems of the region will be invited to, as well as Latin American and Caribbean countries that are not part of the RCA, in order to exchange information on this system.

14. In the framework of the strengthening of financial institutions or funds to support development projects, welcome the signing of the South Bank constitutive agreement by the presidents of its member countries, as one of the pillars of the regional integration process.

Trade

15. *Reiterate* the importance of promoting a broader integration of our economies as a means for achieving higher growth and economic and social development, as well as to ensure a more

effective participation of the region in the global economy, while seeking the reduction o technical barriers that hinder trade.

16. *Continue* promoting regional and sub-regional, multilateral and bilateral integration initiatives that are competitive and open to international trade, with the conviction that those initiatives wil lead to the formation of a common Latin American and Caribbean economic space.

17. *Mandate* our Ministers in charge of international trade and their counterparts to devise the measures necessary to preserve trade volumes and market access for the benefit of the region's countries, in order to stimulate intra-regional trade in goods and services. This is considered a key tool in offsetting global demand reduction. In addition, *instruct* them to implement measures to encourage market access for the exports of developing countries, particularly Land Locked Developing Countries and smaller economies. We wish to create market conditions which might allow greater and more equitable participation by these countries in order to reap the benefits of intra-regional trade.

18. *Also urge* the Ministers responsible for international trade to continue working towards the construction of a fair and balanced multilateral trading system capable of meeting the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed ones. In this regard, *underscore* the urgency of concluding the negotiations of the WTO Doha Round.

19. *Recognize* the valuable contribution that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has made to the formulation of policies that promote development and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, and we support the holding of its 33rd Session at the end of May in Brazil.

Energy

20. *Underscore* that Latin America and the Caribbean face serious challenges in the energy sector, associated with increased demand and instabilities in prices and supply, and we recognize the urgent need to reduce the vulnerability of the region in that regard.

21. *Recognize* the need to take and expand concrete actions to enable smaller economies and least developed countries to achieve energy security through affordable and constant access to diverse forms of energy while at the same time contributing to the sustainable economic and social development of our peoples. We emphasize the importance of cooperation and integration as a means to encourage efficiency and energy saving and a rational and efficient use of both fossil fuels and renewable energy resources.

22. *Take* advantage of the possibilities of regional and sub-regional energy complementarity and, for that purpose, we will enhance concerted efforts to make efficient use of traditional sources of energy and we will establish measures to promote the use and expansion of renewable energy sources, promoting the exchange of expertise and technology transfer on national programs on biofuels, wind turbines, geothermal power, solar power, hydro electricity and other new energy

technologies. We assert, therefore, that it is necessary to make investments in our countries to facilitate the development of our long-term potential in the areas of renewable and non-renewable energy, as well as in technology transfer and technical training necessary to achieve both efficient and sustainable solutions in the production and consumption of energy.

23. *Reaffirm* the significance and importance of energy as a key driver for sustainable development and the sovereign right of each country to establish the conditions for exploiting its energy resources. We thus renew our commitment to advance the processes of regional cooperation and integration based on solidarity and complementarity, in a continuing effort to achieve the sustainable and equitable economic growth of our countries. We recognize, in this regard, the valuable initiatives in cooperation and energy integration being implemented in the region.

Physical integration of infrastructure

24. *Declare* our engagement with the effective geographical integration of Latin America and the Caribbean through the creation of the necessary physical infrastructure and the convergence of the various sub-regional integration processes for which we will undertake the development and implementation of a strategy for the region's physical integration.

25. Therefore, *intensify* our efforts in the field of infrastructure to: foster and implement projects for the expansion of connectivity and projects to increase air, sea and land transportation services, as well as multimodal transportation; design and implement public policies that accommodate the needs of border integration in order to expedite their fulfillment, taking advantage of existing frameworks and initiatives and identify and overcome policy and regulatory difficulties.

26. *Broaden* the exchanges between the Meso-American Project, and the integration mechanisms under UNASUR, through the Council of Planning and Infrastructure (CPI), which will incorporate the IIRSA. We will foster the inclusion of the equivalent Caribbean entities and those established under the ALBA-TCP and PETROCARIBE to this dialogue, as well as encourage the convening of similar meetings between sub-regional mechanisms related to the integration of physical infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Science and technology

27. *Encourage* dialogue between Latin America and the Caribbean and other international stakeholders to discuss "Technology and Productive Development."

28. *Recognize* the potential of information and communication technologies for the development of democracy, the economy and social progress. Therefore, we stress the convenience of sharing knowledge, technology and information, taking advantage of connectivity infrastructure and promoting universal access thereto for our citizens.

29. *Strengthen* our efforts to ensure that the important scientific developments achieved in the region in the last decade will be translated into accessible services, goods and processes for the

economies and the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, through inclusive, innovativ policies.

Social development

Social programs, poverty and hunger eradication programs

30. *Reiterate* that hunger and poverty represent one of the worst forms of human rights violations. I this regard, the fight to eradicate them is an ethical, political and economic challenge fo everyone. In this endeavor, it is necessary to explore and promote new forms of internationa cooperation and solidarity in support of national efforts, as well as to guarantee access to quality foods which are rich in nutrients, in order to advance, with a human face and social inclusion towards better integrated and inclusive societies in a globalized world.

31. *Concentrate* social policy efforts on the most vulnerable segments of the population to respond t the challenges of poverty, inequity and hunger, so as to attain the greater social and economic development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the basis of comprehensiveness non-discrimination and recognition of the person as a legal subject. We will therefore continue promoting social development policies to ensure, within national parameters, an approach tha gives priority to poverty reduction programs, inequity and hunger.

32. In relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and taking into account that the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on MDGs will take place in September 2010, *express* our concern at the slow pace of implementation and we therefore stress the need to promote stronger efforts to achieve the MDGs.

33. *Ensure* that the regional and international trade agreements entered into by the countries of the region are responsive to social development needs, ensure access to nutritious foods in accordance with local customs, and promote the sustainable implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

34. *Promote* the elaboration of a comprehensive public policy plan of action in social issues to carry out cooperation and to ensure the assistance to middle-income countries is more effective, as agreed at high-level international conferences on this matter.

35. *Recognize* that poverty eradication, full and productive employment for all and social integration are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all these objectives can be pursued simultaneously.

Food and nutritional security

36. *Promote* the regional coordination of initiatives as well as the exchange of technologies and recovery of traditional technologies among other actions to ensure food and nutritional security

through public policies that foster rural development, the sustainable production of food, its safety, storage, distribution and marketing, as well as agricultural credit and insurance.

37. *Incorporate* a human rights perspective and gender awareness into the design and review of national strategies aimed at guaranteeing food and nutritional security, with broad social participation, particularly by the most vulnerable sectors, and we will not allow monopolistic abuses in the food sector.

38. *Promote* the development of technology, production and investments, as well as the introduction of environmentally sound technologies that support agricultural production, improvements in productivity and the competitiveness of small and medium producers, including small farmers, as well as their access to productive resources.

39. *Strengthen* integration processes in the food sector and combine efforts in support of the "Hunger-Free 2025 Latin America and Caribbean Initiative."

Education, health and public services

40. *Expand* regional cooperation to promote universal, equal and quality access to primary education, as well as to health, sanitation and water distribution services, especially for people in conditions of extreme poverty. We will seek to respond to the specific needs of youth, ensure the reduction of child malnutrition and mortality, improve maternal and child health, and fight high-impact epidemics, especially in rural areas.

41. *Also, seek* to ensure that national policies and programmes for youth development address the particular needs of young people and involve them and youth-led organizations in the development of national policies that affect them.

42. *Adopt* flexible and integral programs tailored to the cultural and socio-economic realities of each country, region and population sector, to eradicate illiteracy throughout Latin America and the Caribbean before 2015.

43. *Expand* regional cooperation and implement a comprehensive and coordinated response to ensure, inter alia, the reduction of infant mortality, the improvement of maternal health, especially in rural areas, and the fight against high-impact epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and the H1N1 virus. We will work as well at the national, regional and international levels to reduce and control the further spread of non-communicable diseases which pose a serious threat to development, and welcome the initiative of CARICOM Member Countries to convene at UN Headquarters a High Level Meeting on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases in 2011.

Culture

44. *Reaffirm* the right of existence of all cultures and the preservation of the traditional and millenary practices inherent to their identity. In this regard, we will foster the history, traditions, values,

cultural diversity and mutual understanding among the peoples of Latin America and th Caribbean, mindful of the positive contribution this will have for the furtherance of region integration. In the same way, we will promote cooperation, cultural integration and th development of creative industries. .

45. *Recognize*, within a framework of respect for human rights and the well-being of our peoples, th right of our States to establish, in accordance with international law, the normative actions an other measures that they deem appropriate in order to preserve and defend the ancestral cultur expressions of their peoples, which should be respected by the international community.

46. *Promote* cultural diversity as an important element of public policies to reduce poverty, promo equity and attain the Millennium Development Goals.

Migration

47. *Promote* full respect for the human rights of migrants and their families, in origin, transit an destination countries, regardless of their migratory status, and we will work to ensure th migration occurs in an informed, safe manner and in accordance with consular dispositions. W reaffirm our unwavering commitment to fight any racism and xenophobia to which migrants ma be subject, strongly asserting their capabilities as political, economic, cultural and scientif actors who are fundamental to the development and integration processes in the societies of orig and destination.

48. *Continue* intensifying measures aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in persons and t smuggling and exploitation of migrants in all its forms and ensuring full protection and care f the victims of these crimes, especially women, children and adolescents. At the same time, w will establish appropriate points of contact for coordination between countries of origin, tran and destination to combat these crimes.

49. *Facilitate* the integration of migrants in their countries of destination and promote the facilitati of residence, work and regularization, in accordance with national legislation.

50. *Promote* cooperation and exchanges of experience and best practices, at the national, regional a sub-regional levels, in the fight against organized crime, migrant smuggling and trafficking persons, especially regarding the protection of the most vulnerable groups of migrants: childre adolescents, indigenous peoples and Afrodecendants.

Gender

51. *Convinced* that the economic and social development of our countries and the attainment of f democracy are only possible in conditions of genuine equity among men and women, include t gender perspective in the design, implementation and evaluation of all public policies.

52. *Commit* ourselves, on the occasion of the OAS's proclamation of 2010 as the Inter-American Year of Women, to continue working towards the full implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), and towards the objectives contained in the Beijing Declaration and its action platform which was adopted fifteen years ago.

53. *Assign* priority to the eradication of hunger and poverty and to actions that ensure that all men and women of our region have adequate food and housing, as well as access to health, including its sexual and reproductive dimension, education and dignified work, in order to achieve decent standards of living.

Sustainable development

54. *Act* with solidarity in the articulation of an international cooperation strategy to strengthen the relationship between the environment and development, supporting the efforts of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Low-Lying Coastal Developing States and Landlocked Countries and stimulating actions for the protection and recognition of the region's natural heritage.

55. *Encourage* the identification, strengthening and exchange of best practices in sustainable development in the region, in areas such as the incorporation of the environmental component into governmental actions, social participation in public policies, and the sustainable management of natural resources. We will promote initiatives to enable the Latin American and Caribbean countries to become exporters of environmental services.

56. *Strengthen* the Latin American and Caribbean Sustainable Development Initiative (ILAC).

57. *Promote* cooperation in the areas of sustainable management of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems and water.

58. *Recognize* and welcome the decision of Ecuador to promote the Yasuni ITT initiative, for constituting an effective and voluntary measure to tackle the problem of climate change, ensuring the survival of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and guaranteeing the conservation of one of the most diverse areas of the world.

59. *Assert* that true actions to tackle the problems derived from climate change – such as sustainable environmental management initiatives for forests and other key ecosystems, such as wetlands; energy efficiency and the development of new and renewable energy sources; the transformation of transport systems; and scientific and technological innovation – can only be sustainable if they are implemented in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, respecting all rights of peoples and communities.

Climate change

60. *Express* our concern at the pace at which global warming is advancing and we underline that it is imperative to combine efforts in support of the initiatives of our countries to jointly tackle the threat that climate change represents. In this regard we emphasize our commitment to the full, efficient and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in a global effort based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, national capacities and the legitimate aspirations of developing countries.

61. *Promote* within the context of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in the light of this, a transparent, predictable and efficient financial mechanism that ensures the adequate provision of new and sufficient international financial inflows to support our countries' mitigation and adaptation efforts in accordance with the Convention on Climate Change.

62. *Underline* the need for developed countries to fulfil their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide support in the areas of financing, access to and the transfer of technology, and enough capacity building in developing countries which are particularly vulnerable to climate change effects, such as the least developed countries, Small Island Developing States and Low-Lying Coastal Developing States, in order to provide them with cooperation in mitigation and adaptation, without conditionalities.

63. *Express* our pleasure at the fact that our region will host the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention (COP 16), and the 6th Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (MOP 6) and we commit ourselves to support Mexico so that, through a transparent and inclusive negotiation process, it will be possible to attain a comprehensive, ambitious and effective agreement in the Conference, that responds to the needs of our region and results in the strengthening of the international regime established in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol for the benefit of mankind as a whole. We agree that it is necessary that the results of the COP 16th have a legally binding nature as a decisive step in the fight against climate change.

Natural disasters

64. *Underscore* the urgency of developing and implementing the various commitments and mandates undertaken by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean regarding natural disasters, and in particular the establishment of a mechanism to allow for a rapid, appropriate and coordinated regional response to be implemented at the request of and in collaboration with the affected State. To this end, we emphasize the coordinating role of the relevant regional bodies and organizations in this area.

65. *Highlight* the intrinsic relationship that exists between disaster reduction, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty, and other issues, and we therefore recognize the need to

strengthen our nations' capacity for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and attention through the adoption of appropriate polices and increased international cooperation to support national efforts. We similarly recognize the importance of the Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action, the Barbados Action Plan, the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development, and the Florianópolis Declaration of the Second Regional Meeting of International Mechanism on Humanitarian Assistance for the countries that are signatories thereto, in dealing with the problems posed by disasters.

66. *Ensure* the necessary coordination between natural disaster prevention, risk reduction, mitigation, and response mechanisms at the national, regional, and global levels, in our efforts to meet the goals of reducing the risk of natural disasters. We undertake to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the policy and planning process and to build resilience at the community, local, national and regional levels through research, expansion of risk sharing mechanisms, data and information sharing, among others.

67. *Strengthen* regional humanitarian assistance initiatives and promote the establishment of mutual aid protocols or other simplified mechanisms for prompt response to natural disasters.

68. *Instruct* the bodies and agencies of Latin America and the Caribbean with expertise in these areas — the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Central American Natural Disasters Prevention Centre (CEPREDENAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE), and the Specialized Meeting of MERCOSUR on Socio-natural Disasters Risk Relief, Civil Defence, Civil Protection, and International Humanitarian Assistance (REHU) — to define synergies amongst themselves and to put into practice, on an urgent basis, a region-wide coordination and cooperation structure to allow us to optimize our resources and increase our capacity and efficiency to prepare our populations for and response to natural disasters.

69. *Promote* measures in capacity building in environmental protection education, with a view to foster collective awareness and consequently mitigate the effects of man-made natural disasters.

70. *Establish* an open-end working group to pursue these objectives.

Human rights

71. *Reaffirm* the principle that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and, thus, that equal and decisive attention should be given to the application, promotion and protection of civil and political rights, as well as to economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

72. *Promote* and strengthen international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and basic freedoms, in accordance with the goals and principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in international law.

73. *Underscore* the incorporation of the gender awareness approach in our policy design and execution in strategic tasks in the areas of social and economic development, and the strengthening of democracy.

74. *Promote* exchanges of our national experiences in the preparation and presentation of reports to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), as an efficient tool to assess and promote the state of human rights in all countries on an equal basis, and according to each country's commitments. We will work to preserve the integrity, objectivity and balance of this mechanism.

75. *Give* a renewed impulse to education in the field of human rights. We will promote inclusive and quality educational policies for everyone, with full adherence to values such as tolerance, solidarity, equality, gender awareness and respect for the diversity and cultural identities of our peoples.

76. *Promote* the recognition and the fulfilment of third-generation or solidarity rights, in particular the right to development, as well as considering the rights of the elderly.

Security issues

77. *Consider* it essential to strengthen the Latin American and Caribbean States' capacity for initiative in support of the multilateral system for peace, security and development, based on strict compliance with international law and adherence to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

78. *Consider* that new threats to security, such as all forms and manifestations of terrorism, the global problem of drugs and related crimes, organized transnational crime, illicit arms trafficking, common crimes that affect civic security, threats to international public health, particularly HIV/AIDS and H1N1, natural disasters, the shipment of radioactive material through our waters, among others, and especially their effects in Latin America and the Caribbean, must be tackled by competent authorities and entities in an integral manner through effective, articulated and joint international cooperation within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of the States, each country's internal legislation, and international law.

79. With the aim of deepening actions in favour of socio-economic development with democracy, justice and independence, we believe it necessary to affirm the concept that the security of our region must address both the aspects of peace and those that concern political, economic and financial vulnerability, regarding international law. In this sense, we reiterate the commitment of the region to co-ordinate actions in order to:

- Stimulate initiatives in favor of disarmament and international security;
- Encourage mutual trust and promote peaceful solutions to problems and conflicts affecting our region;
- Contribute, through cooperation and consultation, to the defense, strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions;

- Promote and enlarge political dialogue with other States and groups of States within and without the region;
- Co-ordinate positions in order to strengthen multilateralism and democracy in international decision-making;
- Continue with the establishment of zones of peace and co-operation in our region;
- Encourage processes of integration and co-operation for development towards the strengthening of the region's autonomy;
- Embark on an active, co-ordinated struggle to eradicate poverty, hunger, social exclusion, illiteracy and lack of sanitation;
- Reinforce cooperation against drug-trafficking, as well as against terrorism.

80. *Peace* in our region is deeply linked to the respect of these principles: self-determination of nations; non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States; peaceful solution of controversies; proscription of the threat or use of force; juridical equality of the States; and international cooperation for development.

World drug problem

81. *Reaffirm* our countries' commitment in the fight against the world drug problem, through a balanced and integral approach based on the principle of shared responsibility, in light of which we underscore the importance of international cooperation in full respect of the sovereignty of each State.

82. *Reaffirm* our strong commitment to continue to take actions against the demand, production, trafficking and illegal distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related crimes. We are convinced that this fight, which should be part of an integral solution to this problem, that includes the social and economic aspects related to this scourge, will contribute to the social and human development of our societies and the accomplishment of reciprocal commitments.

Terrorism

83. *Strongly reject* terrorism in all its forms and expressions and reaffirm that, whichever its origin or motivation, it does not find any justification whatsoever. We reiterate also our commitment to prevent, fight and eliminate terrorism and its financing through the broadest cooperation and with full respect of the obligations imposed by domestic and international law, in particular those related to human rights, as well as international humanitarian law.

South-South cooperation

84. *Underscore* the importance of South-South cooperation, founded on a spirit of solidarity, without neglecting or replacing traditional sources of cooperation for development.

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85. *Promote* South-South and North-South cooperation initiatives to promote sustainable development and we will continue to foster triangular cooperation within the multilateral system.

86. *Call on* the international community to continue providing cooperation to support the development efforts of middle-income countries, as agreed in the El Salvador Consensus on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries. In this context we underline the importance of promoting the timely implementation of United Nations resolutions, as well as undertake actions to accomplish said cooperation.

Lastly

87. *Incorporate* the Plan of Action of Montego Bay as an annex to this Declaration, in order to make further progress in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean agenda.

88. The Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed their gratitude to the President of Mexico for the initiative to celebrate the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on February 22 and 23, 2010, and expressed their appreciation to the government and people of Mexico for their warm treatment and hospitality, which contributed to the successful outcome of the Summit.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico, February 23, 2010

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Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Letter dated 23 February 2010 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

We have the honour of addressing you regarding the workshop on the protection of civilians in United Nations peacekeeping operations co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Australia and Uruguay to the United Nations in New York on 19 January 2010.

We consider that this was a very good opportunity to encourage an open, broad and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders, including the troop- and police-contributing countries, on the findings and recommendations of the independent study entitled "Protecting Civilians in the Context of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations — Successes, Setbacks and Remaining Challenges" conducted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The workshop also provided an opportunity for Member States to engage in a discussion with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on how they intend to respond to the findings of the independent study.

A summary of the workshop discussions is attached (see annex). It describes, briefly and objectively, the main concerns, challenges and understandings raised by the diverse participants in this event.

We hope that this document may be helpful in discussions of these issues that could eventually take place in the General Assembly or its specialized body, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

We request that the present letter and its annex be circulated to all Member States as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33.

(*Signed*) Gary **Quinlan**

(*Signed*) José Luis **Cancela Gómez**

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Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2010 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Workshop on the protection of civilians in United Nations peacekeeping operations co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Australia and Uruguay to the United Nations

New York, 19 January 2010

The Permanent Missions of Australia and Uruguay to the United Nations co-hosted a workshop on 19 January 2010 on the protection of civilians in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The aim of the workshop was to provide a forum for the peacekeeping community, in particular the troop- and police-contributing countries, to provide their thoughts on the recommendations made in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs jointly commissioned independent study entitled "Protecting Civilians in the Context of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations — Successes, Setbacks and Remaining Challenges", based on their practical experience.

The workshop was held in follow-up to a similar workshop co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Australia and Uruguay to the United Nations in January 2009 on the implementation of protection of civilians mandates in United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/63/722). The points raised at that workshop were taken into account in 2009 by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which called for the Secretariat to consult with troop- and police-contributing countries on their experiences in implementing mandates on protection of civilians.

In parallel with the progress being made in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Security Council remained focused on protection of civilians throughout 2009, marking the tenth year of the progressive consideration of protection of civilians in armed conflict as a thematic issue as well as the ten-year anniversary of the first time the Security Council mandated for a United Nations peacekeeping operation to protect civilians in the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. In the last of three thematic Security Council debates in 2009, the Council adopted resolution 1894 (2009) in which it called on the Secretary-General to develop an operational concept on protection of civilians in close consultation with Member States, including the troop- and police-contributing countries.

Against the backdrop of these developments in 2009, the workshop in January 2010 focused on the findings of the study and the reactions of Member States and the Secretariat to its recommendations. The workshop was divided into three sessions to facilitate discussion between different panellists and the participants from Member States, the Secretariat and non-governmental organizations. (A list of the panellists is attached to the present document.) A summary of the key issues discussed in those sessions follows.

Session 1: Overview of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs independent study

The first session focused on the findings of the independent study. Its advance release in November 2009 provided Member States with the opportunity to

formulate some comments on the extensive document in advance of the workshop. The panellists were able to provide an overview of the study's findings as a result of their experience in the research process and as part of the advisory panel of the study.

The study was the first piece of comprehensive research that had been done on the protection of civilians in United Nations peacekeeping operations. It examined the whole chain of events from the elaboration of protection of civilians mandate language in the Council through to the implementation of the mandate on the ground. It found that the process required serious attention and that this was something that Member States, the Secretariat and the Security Council all needed to be involved in.

The study found that protection of civilians is a very broad concept that was already well grounded and defined in international humanitarian law and human rights law, but that those definitions had not yet been effectively translated into a field context to operationalize protection and ensure that these civilians were actually being protected on the ground. These tasks were not just confined to physical protection tasks but could incorporate such elements as security sector reform and rule of law elements.

In terms of the Secretariat, the study found that the lack of an operational concept had hindered the implementation of protection of civilians mandates, as there was no clarity, analysis or scope of the resources and equipment needed to effectively implement the mandate. Feedback from the field found that, for some military or police members, protection of civilians was one more thing they were being asked to do, with already complex mandates and limited resources. What United Nations peacekeeping missions therefore required was a mission-wide strategy that would factor in all of these different considerations and ensure that the mission's resources were channelled to better protect civilians. Commanders in the field often found it difficult, when events were unfolding, to make decisions about mission strategy and tactics in the absence of clear guidance on how to protect civilians. The United Nations would be in a better position to develop guidance, based on lessons learned from the field and in close consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, in a manner that makes the expectations and responsibilities clear to everybody involved.

The independent study found that the Security Council needed to take into account protection of civilians from the very moment it started to consider a mission, right at the planning stages. This was critical to ensure that the mandate was adequate, that the mission would be adequately resourced, and that the troop- and police-contributing countries were aware of what would be expected of them in committing to a peacekeeping operation with a protection of civilians mandate. This was a point that was raised frequently throughout the discussion, and is one of the reasons why troop- and police-contributing countries stressed the need for better communication between themselves and the Council, to ensure that they knew exactly what they were contributing to. It was also recognized that troop- and police-contributing countries would need to adequately assess whether they could commit to the requirements of the mission.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was viewed as the main body that could add significant value, in an intergovernmental and advisory capacity, while reflecting the wider political support of Member States on this issue.

However, more steps could be taken to ensure that delegates, in particular those without military experience, were better sensitized to what was occurring in the field. This could involve meetings and feedback mechanisms throughout the year about developments in the field, as well as visits to the field to see and hear what problems and difficulties peacekeepers were facing on the ground.

Many participants showed particular interest in the trip that the team leader of the independent study, Ambassador Mahiga (Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations), had recently made to African capitals to discuss the findings of the independent study. They viewed this as a good example of efforts to constructively engage with troop- and police-contributing countries on the issues identified in the independent study.

Session 2: Perspectives from troop- and police-contributing countries based on lessons learned

This session focused on the experiences and lessons learned by troop- and police-contributing countries that were tasked with implementing protection of civilians mandates in the field. Many of the experiences shared by the panellists and participants in the audience concurred with several of the problem areas identified in the independent study.

Many of the troop- and police-contributing countries present agreed on the need to be engaged from the very beginning of the mandate formulation process, as this would promote a better understanding among the different actors on the objectives, challenges and potential risks linked to the implementation of a protection of civilians mandate.

One of the main challenges identified by many troop- and police-contributing countries was a lack of adequate resources for the size of missions and the requirements of the mandates. Missions required more mobility and quick deployment capabilities in order to meet the rapidly changing circumstances on the ground. Some participants expressed concern that the resources being provided (for example, non-military helicopters) were not adequate for the mission they were tasked to undertake. Balanced with the need for resources and capabilities was the need for a mission-wide approach that would take into consideration the political developments on the ground and ensure that resources were utilized effectively across a mission.

Another challenge that hampered the effective implementation of protection of civilians mandates was a lack of training and guidance, in conjunction with effective leadership that actually understood what the mandate was attempting to achieve. Further work needed to be done to ensure that there was a common understanding between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troops and police on the ground about the mandate requirements.

Many of the participants agreed that the implementation of a protection of civilians mandate would differ from mission to mission, and that this would require peacekeepers on the ground to observe the peculiarities of each mission. This required better collection of information and the provision of threat assessments. Communication with the local population on the ground — simply talking to people — was viewed as critical. Discussion also focused on experiences in the field where communication with the local population had resulted in innovative

approaches that require minimal resources but substantially improve the safety of civilians. Quick-impact projects, such as energy-saving stoves or digging wells near internally displaced persons camps, reduced the frequency of movement among civilians and therefore reduced the need for civilians to place themselves, as well as the peacekeepers trying to protect them, in threatening situations.

Session 3: How does the Secretariat plan to take forward the issue of protection of civilians?

This session focused on how the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs intend to take forward the recommendations of the independent study to ensure that protection of civilians mandates are more effectively implemented in the field.

The study pointed out that mission leadership is important, as protection is often more forcefully carried out based on leadership. However, mission leaders have often been left to deal with several difficult aspects in implementing protection of civilians mandates, without any guidance on what the mandates mean or how to prioritize the mandated tasks.

The lack of clarity on these and other issues has contributed to an ad hoc approach. In the absence of clear guidance on these matters, missions have developed several innovative approaches to protection of civilians. The lessons learned note on protection of civilians would analyse some of the good lessons being learned, such as the importance of an early focus on protection of civilians, incorporating protection into mission planning from the outset, anticipating protection incidents through threat analysis and early warning, employing a joint and integrated approach to protection, and placing an emphasis on communicating protection tasks (and their limitations) to local and international audiences.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided an overview of some of the key problems identified in the study and how it intends to address them:

- Key mission planning documents have had minimal references to how protection of civilians should be done in the field. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations intends to examine planning mechanisms, with a view to ensuring that protection of civilians mandates are built into and mainstreamed into the mission architecture.

- There is very little training about how troops are expected to operationalize protection of civilians. They are told what not to do, rather than what they should do. The Department will work with Member States to develop training standards to ensure peacekeepers arrive in the field better prepared to undertake their tasks.

- Missions cannot undertake their missions to protect without a sound understanding of the environment, the risks they will face and the motives behind the mission. The Department is undertaking an analysis of their threat analysis capability.

- Strong mission leadership can enable the mission to proactively find ways to address protection. One of the key aspects of the "New Horizon" agenda is to reinforce mission leadership through training and accountability frameworks and by working with Member States to deploy effective mission leaders.

- All policymakers at the practical level must have a common understanding as to what is intended by the protection mandate. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is compiling a paper on lessons learned and is using it to inform the drafting of an operational concept. The operational concept will also assist in identifying the necessary training and guidance development, as well as the necessary requirements to deliver on the protection of civilians. The operational concept will have a three-tiered approach:

  (1) protection through political process;

  (2) protection from physical violence, including four different phases, namely assurance, pre-emption (prevention and deterrence), crisis response and consolidation;

  (3) establishment of a protective environment.

- If all the other measures were to fail, then there must be a readiness to use force. The robust peacekeeping approach will have to be part of this comprehensive approach. This will require more effective delivery of logistics support on multiple fronts, so that the peacekeeping mission would not have to go into a crisis response phase.

Improving implementation of protection of civilians mandates will be a system-wide endeavour. It will require effective leadership, coordination, an overarching strategy, early reporting of protection concerns, and effective benchmarks. This will require focused attention from the full range of protection actors, including the Security Council, the Secretariat, the host country, Member States, the uniformed troops and police on the ground, humanitarian actors and the local population.

Conclusion

The independent study maps out a roadway as to how the United Nations peacekeeping community might be able to better protect civilians as part of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It was clear that protection of civilians in United Nations peacekeeping continues to face many challenges, but that these are now well-known and work is under way to start addressing them. Participants were appreciative of the work that is going on in the Secretariat and expressed interest in substantive discussions on protection of civilians in the upcoming session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Attachment

Panellists

Session 1: Overview of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs independent study

Chair: Gary Quinlan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

Panellists:

- Augustine Mahiga, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, and team leader of the independent study
- Glyn Taylor, senior researcher and author of the independent study
- Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States, member of the advisory group on the independent study

Session 2: Perspectives from troop- and police-contributing countries based on lessons learned

Chair: José Luis Cancela Gómez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations

Panellist:

- Alfred Ndabarasa, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations

Session 3: How does the Secretariat plan to take forward the issue of protection of civilians?

Chair: Gary Quinlan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

Panellists:

- Izumi Nakamitsu, Director of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief of the Policy Development and Studies Branch, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

United Nations

A/64/722

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda items 23 and 62

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Advancement of women

Letter dated 15 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 12 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina addressed to you, on the extension of the territorial application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

The Government of the United Kingdom has no doubt about the sovereignty of the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and their surrounding maritime areas. The Government of the United Kingdom rejects the claims by the Government of Argentina to sovereignty over any of these territories and maritime areas.

In reference to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the United Kingdom has no doubt about its right to extend the application of these treaties to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The principle of self-determination, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, underlies our position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiation on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 23 and 62.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**

10-27944 (E) 190310

Please recycle

United Nations A/64/723

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 141

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Yuliana Zhivkova **Georgieva** (Bulgaria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th and 27th meetings, on 7 October 2009 and 19 March 2010. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/64/SR.4 and 27).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 (A/64/288 (annex I)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.31

4. At its 27th meeting, on 19 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272" (A/C.5/64/L.31), which was submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of South Africa.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.31 without a vote (see para. 6).

10-28538 (E) 250310

Please recycle

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the relevant Articles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999 and 59/272 of 23 December 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 61/275 of 29 June 2007,

Reaffirming that the purpose of the Office of Internal Oversight Services is to assist the Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities in respect of the resources and staff of the Organization,

Having considered the annex to the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee,[1]

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272;

2. *Also reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action on reports submitted to it;

3. *Further reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

4. *Reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of internal and external oversight mechanisms;

5. *Endorses* the observations, comments and recommendations on the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contained in the annex to the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee,[1] requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of paragraphs 20 (a), 20 (b), 20 (c), 20 (e), 27, 29, 33, 35 and 39 of that annex, taking into account the provisions of its resolutions relevant to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and further requests the Secretary-General to take no action on paragraphs 19, 20 (d), 21, 22, 24, 42 and 43 of that annex;

6. *Decides* to revert to the issues and recommendations contained in paragraphs 19, 20 (d), 21, 22, 24, 42 and 43 of the annex to the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee no later than the main part of its sixty-sixth session, and in this regard invites the Independent Audit Advisory Committee to provide further advice on relevant issues as it deems necessary;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with comprehensively defining and compiling key oversight terms in close consultation with relevant departments and offices including the Department of Management and the Office of Legal Affairs, bearing in mind existing definitions

[1] A/64/288.

used by the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit, and taking into account the views of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with submitting for its consideration, no later than the main part of its sixty-sixth session, terms whose definition requires the guidance of the General Assembly;

9. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services shall exercise operational independence under the authority of the Secretary-General relating to the performance of its internal oversight functions, in accordance with the relevant resolutions;

10. *Reaffirms* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services is an internal body under the authority of the Secretary-General, and that, as such, the Office shall comply with all relevant regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the United Nations;

11. *Notes* the role of the Management Committee in monitoring closely the implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies, and stresses the importance of follow-up with programme managers to ensure the full implementation of those recommendations in a prompt and timely manner;

12. *Recalls* that reports referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of its resolution 59/272 are, upon request, available only to Member States;

13. *Decides* to evaluate and review at its sixty-ninth session the functions and reporting procedures of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and any other matter which it deems appropriate, and to that end to include in the provisional agenda of that session an item entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, 59/272 and 64/ ".

United Nations A/64/724

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 March 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 138

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Yuliana Zhivkova **Georgieva** (Bulgaria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 23rd and 27th meetings, on 1 and 19 March 2010. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/64/SR.23 and 27).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010 (A/64/34), a note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 (A/64/642) and a note by the President of the General Assembly on procedures for the appointment of inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/64/667).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.29

4. At its 27th meeting, on 19 March 2010, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010" (A/C.5/64/L.29), which was submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the United Kingdom.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.29 without a vote (see para. 6).

10-28550 (E) 250310

Please recycle

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010

The General Assembly,

I

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/230 of 23 December 2000, 56/245 of 24 December 2001, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008 and 63/272 of 7 April 2009,

Reiterating that the impact of the work of the Unit on the cost-effectiveness of activities within the United Nations system is a shared responsibility of the Member States, the Unit and the secretariats of the participating organizations,

Reaffirming the commitment by the Unit, the legislative organs and the secretariats of the participating organizations to implement a system of follow-up to the recommendations of the Unit, as set out in resolution 54/16,

Reaffirming also the statute of the Unit[1] and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010,[2] and the note of the Secretary-General,[3]

1. *Recalls* its resolutions 61/260, 62/246 and 63/272;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010;[2]

3. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[3]

4. *Affirms* that oversight is a shared responsibility of Member States, the organizations and the internal and external oversight bodies;

5. *Welcomes* the continued progress in the reform process of the Unit, particularly the results-based management approach, and its improved collaboration with participating organizations and other oversight bodies;

6. *Notes* the ongoing progress of the development of a web-based follow-up system;

[1] Resolution 31/192, annex.
[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/64/34).
[3] A/64/642.

7. *Invites* the Unit to report to the General Assembly on further progress made in the reform process, including the web-based follow-up system, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget 2012-2013 on any related resource implications and funding options;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit, in line with its mandate, to continue to focus its work and reports on system-wide issues of interest and relevance to the participating organizations and the States Members of the United Nations and to provide advice on ways to ensure the avoidance of duplication and overlap and more efficient and effective use of resources in implementing the mandates of the Organization;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments and to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it;

11. *Reiterates its invitation* to the legislative organs of the participating organizations to fully consider and take concrete action on the relevant recommendations issued by the Unit;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to expedite the implementation of the present resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations in the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and the consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved;

13. *Welcomes* the coordination of the Unit with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, and encourages those bodies to continue sharing experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies, as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, with a view to avoiding overlap or duplication and achieving further synergy, cooperation, effectiveness and efficiency, without prejudice to the respective mandates of oversight bodies;

14. *Stresses* the need for the Unit to continuously update and improve the Unit's medium- and long-term strategy for 2010-2019, taking into account the dynamics and challenges of the environment in which it undertakes its activities;

15. *Notes* that the Unit's 2010 programme of work was adjusted in line with existing resources, and requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the ongoing development of the medium- and long-term strategy approach, to reflect relevant resource requests in the context of future proposed programme budgets;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 8 of its resolution 63/311, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure the appropriate involvement of

the Unit in the ongoing relevant consultations, taking into account its role and mandate;

17. *Notes with concern* that some Member States did not abide by its resolutions on the issuance of visas for the official travel of some inspectors and staff of the Unit, and in this regard requests Member States to extend, without conditions, the requisite facilitation to enable the individual inspectors and the staff of the Unit to undertake their tasks;

18. *Requests* the Unit to keep the General Assembly informed, as necessary, about any difficulty or delay in obtaining visas for the official travel of the inspectors and members of its secretariat;

II

Having considered the note by the President of the General Assembly on the implementation of the procedures for the appointment of inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit,[1]

Recalling section II of its resolution 61/238,

Takes note of the note by the President of the General Assembly on the implementation of the procedures for the appointment of inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit.

[1] A/64/667